

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJ: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: STATE 131425

1. IN JULY 12 MEETING WITH HSIAO K'E, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, HOLDRIDGE REFERRED TO MARCH JWO
NOTE AND ASKED WHEN EXHIBITION MIGHT BE EXPECTED IN U.S.
HE URGED THAT EXHIBITION ARRIVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1974,
BE PERMITTED TO STAY FOR A YEAR, AND MAKE SEVERAL STOPS IN VARIOUS
PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

2. HSIAO REPLIED THAT THERE WERE STILL TIMING QUESTIONS
TO BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE PRC GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT ACCORDING
TO ORIGINAL TIMETABLE EXHIBITION DUE TO ARRIVE U.S. END OF
1974. THERE WERE OTHER (UNNAMED) WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
INVOLVED ON ITINERARY, EACH OF WHICH HAD BEEN INFORMED OF
DATES. HE DID NOT THINK THAT AN ITINERARY WHICH INVOLVED
DOUBLING BACK TO EUROPE AFTER A STAY IN THE U.S. WOULD BE
GOOD FOR THE EXHIBIT.

3. AS FAR AS LENGTH OF STAY AND STOPS OTHER THAN WASHINGTON
CONCERNED, HSIAO SAID OTHER COUNTRIES LIMITED TO FOUR MONTHS AND CI
ONE STOP ONLY. BECAUSE EXHIBIT WAS PRECIOUS, FRAGILE AND
SENSITIVE TO CLIMATIC CHANGES, PRC NATURALLY WANTED TO KEEP NUMBER OF
STOPS, MOVES, UNPACKING AND REPACKING TO MINIMUM.
NEVERTHELESS, HSIAO CONCLUDED, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO REPORT
HOLDRIDGE'S IDEAS TO THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED FOR
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CONSIDERATION.

4. HOLDRIDGE THANKED HSIAO, MENTIONED THE ENORMOUS INTEREST IN THE EXHIBITION THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, AND DESCRIBED THE CARE TAKEN BY AMERICAN MUSEUMS TO INSURE UNIFORM CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH HSIAO ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION AND URGED THAT OUR VIEWS BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION.

5. COMMENT: THE ADDITION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN FRANCE AND UK IS A NEW ELEMENT WHICH LOCKS CHINESE TIGHTER INTO THEIR SCHEDULE THAN WE HWD ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED. CHANGES WOULD APPEAR TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE. IT MIGHT BE WIYE FVLNFTLAWITO PUSH FOR AN EARLIER DATE, ESPECIALLY IF WE WANT TO ADD SEVERAL MORE STOPS IN THE UNITED STATES. IN UNLIKELY EVENT THAT PRC AGREES TO EARLIER STAY IN AMERICA INVOLVING RETURN TO EUROPE, CHINESE WILL ALMOST CERTACNLY USE THIS TO LIMIT STOPS IN U.S. TO ONE ONLY.

6. AFTER DRAFTING ABOVE, WE NOTED JULY 2 REUTERS REPORT THAT BRITIAN AND PRC HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENT TO EXHIBIT CHINESE TREASURES IN LONDON FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 1973 TO JANUARY 23, 1974. BRUCE

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